

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-9 and 21 under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Kessler (US-A-3,736,599). Kessler does not anticipate or even suggest the invention defined by amended Claim 1 for at least the following three reasons:

(i) the so-called assembly means (61) of Kessler's wall *do not hold together two consecutive panels by allowing one of them to move angularly* relative to the other about a vertical axis, contrary to that which is asserted in the office action on page 2. The rod 61 of figure 5 *only serves to place the upper frame 49 and the bottom rail 31 in compression against the side wall 3 to lock these elements together for a single panel 3* (see column 4, lines 6-9) and not to allow one of two consecutive panels 3 to rotate relative to the other. The locking rod 61 is not a feature of Kessler that allows the panels to move slightly angularly relative to one another;

(ii) the so-called angle determining means (19) of Kessler's wall cannot ensure that two consecutive panels (3) are at a determined angular orientation by shaping the angle between them, since each interlocking member 19 directly connects two consecutive panels 3 and thus determines *a priori* this fixed angle. It is to be noted that we can consider that this *interlocking member 19 either opposes any relative angular movement* between both consecutive panels, thus teaching further away from the assembly means of instant Claim 1, *or that this member 19 allows slight variations for this angle which further contradicts the angle determining function*; and

(iii) the so-called angle determining means (19) of Kessler's wall is not constituted by a part presenting *two arms* that are respectively mounted on *two consecutive sections members* of the low belt and/or of the high belt. Contrary to what the Examiner says in page 4 of the Office Action, lines 5-6 and in page 10 of Office Action, lines 2-7, it is not because this interlocking member 19 extends the full height of both consecutive panels 3 that it is mounted on the low belt 31, which is not connected to member 19 according to figures 4 and 5, and on *the high belt 41, 45*, which is not divided into separated consecutive section members according to figure 5 but serves

only as a single and common frame for the coping 41 as well explained in column 3, lines 46-61.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 16, and 17 under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Maupas (US-A-S 896 715). Maupas does not anticipate nor suggest amended Claim I, for at least following four reasons:

(i) the so-called assembly means (7, 9) of the wall of Maupas do not hold together two consecutive panels *by allowing one of them to move angularly relative to the other* about a vertical axis, contrary to what the Examiner says in page 5 of Office Action when indicating in lines 9-10 that it is "prior to member 9 being installed," since it is not accurate to say that Maupas teaches such an angular movement by deleting this essential assembly blocking member 9. In fact, the assembly means of Maupas are *designed to keep two consecutive panels 1 into alignment with one another in a blocked position*, as explicitly said in column 4, lines 13-16 and lines 24-29;

(ii) as a consequence and as visible in Maupas' drawings, no angle-determining means are provided for ensuring that both consecutive panels are at a determined angular orientation relative to each other;

(iii) no low belt or high belt according to instant Claim 1 are provided in Maupas, because Maupas does not disclose a plurality of section members for both a low belt and a high belt, and the stiffening part 30 may not form in any way any such section members; and

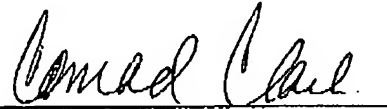
(iv) the so-called angle determining means 20 (figure 7) mentioned by the Examiner in Office Action, page 5 do not comprise *two arms M and N respectively mounted on these two consecutive either low or high section members*.

Reconsideration is also respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC §103 as obvious in view of Kessler, Glonek, Maupas or Davis. None of Kessler, Maupas, Glonek (US-A-4 464 802), or Davis (US-A-2 446 323) contains any suggestion of the subject matter of amended Claim 1. In particular none of the references would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kessler or Maupas to meet any of the deficiencies noted above. Accordingly, the claims appear to be clearly non-obvious and, thus, patentable over the prior art of record.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication thereof is respectfully requested. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any outstanding issues.

All necessary extensions of time are hereby requested, even though none is believed to be required. Please charge any fee deficiency to deposit account 50-1088.

Respectfully submitted,
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